

**PROPOSED REUSABLE BAG ORDINANCE  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Three outreach meetings were conducted during the month of July 2012 regarding the Reusable Bag Ordinance (Ordinance). City staff met with the Chamber of Commerce Business in Public Policy (BIPP) Committee on July 11, 2012, to discuss provisions of the Ordinance. Two public input meetings for residents and businesses were held on July 23 and 31, 2012. Approximately 20 residents and business representatives in total attended the input meetings.

In general, supporters of the proposed Ordinance cited concerns about the need to reduce the harm plastic bags are causing to the environment and utility systems; and how bags create unnecessary waste and litter. Supporters also noted the benefits of the regional approach and ease of implementation. Some commented that the potential of bacteria being spread by unwashed reusable bags was not a significant concern to them, and noted that reusable bags are being used in other countries without adverse effects from bacteria.

Opponents to the proposed Ordinance cited concerns regarding the lack of a compelling public safety reason for the Ordinance, additional government regulation, and the potential for bacteria to be spread by unwashed bags. Some opponents noted that plastic bags can, and often are, reused; and there are other environmental issues that should be addressed more immediately than this issue. They also suggested adoption of the Ordinance should be through a State-wide ban or be voted upon by the community.

Specific comments from the three meetings are provided below.

**Input from July 11, 2012 Chamber of Commerce BIPP Meeting**

- How will the Ordinance apply to the Farmers' Market?
- How will protective bags for produce be handled under the Ordinance?
- Requested the City send information to the Chamber for distribution.

### Input from July 23 and 31, 2012 Meetings

- Are fast food restaurants (i.e., McDonald's) considered a restaurant under the ordinance?
- Can individual bags be used at hardware store to keep items separate, like nuts and screws?
- Residents should get say on the matter.
- Why not put this on the ballot?
- Paper bags should be free.
- Will groceries need to add security?
- What is the definition of a paper bag under the Ordinance?
- Will stores charge for both plastic and paper bags?
- Stores may save money by not distributing bags, so bags should be free.
- Can old grocery store bags be reused?
- Cigarette butts are just as much of an environmental issue.
- I reuse the plastic carry-out bags like trash bags to keep garbage cans cleaner, and to decrease odor and pests.
- Too much government - no compelling public safety reason for the ordinance.
- Why not distribute more environmentally friendly bags?
- Can the State undo the mandate (of the City's Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit).
- Why not have a more positive incentive-based program like paying customer for each reusable bag brought into the store?
- Do cities get to decide if they have an ordinance or not (referring to the regional EIR)?
- Men don't have any way to carry the bags.
- When does the paper bag fee go up and is there a limit to how much the fee would be?
- When will there be more meetings about this in the future?
- Paper bags come in different sizes. What size bags will be provided for the 10 cents?
- Costco uses paper cartons (boxes)—other stores should think about that.
- Is there any size limit to plastic bags? Are garment bags for clothing stores included?
- This is a world-wide problem, but it is normal practice in other countries to use reusable bags, and bacteria on bags has not been identified as a problem.
- Mountain View should do the right thing and ban plastic bags.
- What is the data about the results of plastic bag bans in other jurisdictions?
- Reusable bags should be made out of materials that protect contents from rainy weather.
- When did the City of San Jose's ban go into effect?
- An earlier study cites bacteria on unwashed reusable bags as a concern.
- Not happy with the City Council.

- Small businesses don't have option to collect bags for recycling.
- How many Mountain View animals have been harmed by plastic bags?
- Referring to plastic bags as single-use bags is misleading because they can be reused.
- Consider alternative of having stores pay customers to bring reusable bags.
- It is easier for men to carry plastic bags than reusable bags.
- Where do cities get the authority to set prices for product that a City doesn't provide?
- Record-keeping requirements may be difficult for stores.
- How many trees were cut down because a paper bag was caught in the branches?
- Why ban plastic bags and not paper bags?
- Why not ban dog pet waste bags?
- Is the ten cent charge to reimburse the cost of the bag to retailers?
- The ban should be done at the State-level.
- Does City have right to impose price control on bags?
- Give away reusable bags.
- The plastic bags found in waterways are from nearby homeless encampments. Including homeless encampments in the ban on plastic bags would help prevent the litter problem.
- Is there any data about litter in waterways?
- The City should make a copy of the City of San Jose study (regarding bacteria on reusable bags as being similar to bacteria found in home kitchens) available for the public to review.

Additional comments received by the Public Works Department are attached.

## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Cheryl Walterskirchen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 17, 2012 8:13 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Single use bag policy

**Categories:** Bags

I will be out of town for both public meetings but wanted to give my input.

I am very much in support of a ban. I would love to include a ban on single use paper as well but this is a great step in the right direction.

I am so glad we are moving in this direction and wish it could happen faster.

When in college, I used to have to really demand that I NOT be given a bag. Store policy often dictated that all purchases be bagged in the store's disposable bags.

I have some of Safeway's original canvas shopping bags and try to have at least one reusable bag with me at all times...just in case.

I think banning most disposable plastic bags is a trend in the right direction! Yeay Mountain View!  
sent from my Droid

Cheryl

## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Dave and Gil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 20, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ordinance

**Categories:** Bags

Cynthia,

My wife and I will not be able to attend either of the community input meetings about the plastic bag ordinance. However, allow us to indicate that we strongly support a ban on single-use plastic bags because of their negative impact on the environment and because of the unsightly mess created by careless users.

A question: will the ban apply to the Mountain View farmers' market? It has been our observation that an enormous number of single-use bags are dispensed there every Sunday. It should be limited.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

David Stein & Gilberte Grangier  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Palacio, Cynthia**

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**From:** Seascapes Fish and Pets [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 28, 2012 2:31 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** plastic bag ban

**Categories:** Bags

Dear Cynthia -

We would like to request that aquarium fish stores be on the list of retail stores that will be excluded from the plastic bag ban.

We sell live pet fish, whose lives depend on being transported to their new homes safely in bags of water. We are concerned about where we fall on the new ordinance.

Thank you,  
-Chloe Mezilis-

Seascapes Fish and Pets  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 31, 2012 2:37 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** To City council

Name: Steve Chandler

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Comments: Please ban plastic bags.

Thank you,  
Steve Chandler  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 31, 2012 3:28 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** To City council

Name: jane horton

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Comments: "YES" to the plastic bag ban



## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Seascapes Fish and Pets [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 02, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Re: plastic bag ban  
  
**Categories:** Bags

Hi Cynthia ,

The carry out bag is just as necessary to the safety of the fish as the protective bag holding the water. The carry out bag blocks sunlight, prevents the protective bag from being dropped on the side walk, and prevents the fish from seeing its surroundings and becoming frightened and stress ( stress often is fatal to fish). Therefore I am requesting to be exempt from the bag ban. Are petitions needed for this?

-Chloe-  
Seascapes Fish and Pets

On Mon, Jul 30, 2012 at 12:07 PM, Palacio, Cynthia <[cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov](mailto:cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov)> wrote:

Ms. Mezilis,

Protective bags are excluded from the ordinance, so the example you described is okay. The proposed ordinance bans the use of those plastic carryout bags and requires you to charge 10 cents for paper carryout bags.

As an example, if your customer buys fish food, aquarium rocks, or a fish bowl, the consumer must either buy a paper carryout bag from you, or buy or bring a reusable bag. Plastic carryout bags would be banned.

If the customer bought only a live pet fish, it would of course be in a protective bag, but if the customer then wanted a carryout bag for the protective bag, they would have to buy a paper carryout bag from you or buy or bring a reusable bag. Plastic carryout bags would be banned.

If you have any other questions, please let me know. I will add your example of the pet fish in my presentation tomorrow night. Thanks for writing!

**Cynthia Palacio**

Senior Analyst

City of Mountain View

Public Works Department

Solid Waste & Recycling

650-903-6033 desk

650-963-3024 fax

cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov

www.MVrecycle.org

**From:** Seascapes Fish and Pets [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 28, 2012 2:31 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** plastic bag ban

Dear Cynthia -

We would like to request that aquarium fish stores be on the list of retail stores that will be excluded from the plastic bag ban.

We sell live pet fish, whose lives depend on being transported to their new homes safely in bags of water. We are concerned about where we fall on the new ordinance.

Thank you,  
-Chloe Mezilis-

Seascapes Fish and Pets  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2012 1:58 PM  
To: , City Clerk  
Subject: To City council

Name: John Hanson

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Comments: Dear councilmembers,

I understand that Mountain View is considering an ordinance regarding the banning of plastic shopping bags and a surcharge for any bags used. This is similar to ordinances passed in San Jose and Sunnyvale and perhaps some of our other neighbors.

I encourage you to ban plastic bags in our stores. That seems reasonable to me.

However, I will be extremely displeased if we follow other communities and put a \$0.10 tax on bags that must be paid for by the customer. It is very annoying to go into a store, spend hundreds of dollars and be told that they are charging me for the bag. The only behavior that it induces in people is to encourage them to shop elsewhere. If \$0.10 is a true reflection of the cost of a bag on our community, let the shop owners roll it into their prices.

Thank you,

John Hanson

## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Marn-Yee Lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 22, 2012 5:12 AM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Re: [rex-manor:1481] Fwd: Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance - Community Meetings Scheduled July 23 and 31

**Categories:** Bags

Cynthia,

I am in full support of banning single-use carryout bag.

I'd like to add a comment to please retain plastic bag collection bins at convenient places, so that we can continue to recycle other types of plastic bags that come with packaging. Currently I save up such bags, and include them in the return when I shop at Safeway, Fresh & Easy, etc.

Thanks,  
Marn-Yee Lee  
residence of Mt View

On Thu, Jul 19, 2012 at 7:23 PM, Lawrence Shing [REDACTED] wrote:  
FYI

Jo Anne

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance - Community Meetings Scheduled July 23 and 31

**Date:** Tue, 17 Jul 2012 22:50:54 +0000

**From:** Palacio, Cynthia <cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov>

**To:** 'Cuesta Park' [REDACTED], 'Dutch Haven' [REDACTED], 'Eastern Varsity Park' [REDACTED], 'Martens-Carmelita' [REDACTED], 'Monta Loma' [REDACTED], 'North Whisman' [REDACTED], 'Old Mountain View' [REDACTED], 'Orchard Trees/South Fordham' [REDACTED], 'Rex Manor' [REDACTED], 'Shoreline West' [REDACTED], 'Slater' [REDACTED], 'Springer Meadow' [REDACTED], 'St. Francis' [REDACTED], 'Sylvan Park' [REDACTED], 'Wagon Wheel' [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Neighbors,

The City of Mountain View invites our businesses and residents to attend a community meeting to learn and provide input about a proposed City ordinance to ban plastic single-use carryout bags and charge for paper bags at retail stores, excluding restaurants, charitable nonprofit thrift organizations, and protective bags for

produce/meat/prescriptions. If adopted the ordinance would likely become effective July 1, 2013. More background is provided below.

You may attend either meeting date:

July 23, 2012 at 2 p.m.

OR

July 31, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Meeting Location:

City Council Chambers

500 Castro Street, Second Floor

Mountain View, CA

Background:

Mountain View is participating with other cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara county in a joint environmental impact report (EIR) to evaluate the effects of the proposed ordinance on the environment. The EIR is the first step in the process before cities may consider adopting a local ordinance. The Draft EIR is available for review at the Mountain View Library or [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org) (link is Bag Ordinance). Comments about the environmental effects of the proposed ordinance re due to San Mateo County (the host agency for the EIR) no later than 5 p.m. on August 6, 2012.

The second step in the process is consideration of a local ordinance. As noted above Mountain View is having community input meetings on July 23 at 2 p.m. and July 31 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View. After these meetings, a staff report and workplan will be prepared and presented to City Council sometime in the Fall, probably October or early November. Council will consider the ordinance at a public hearing and if adopted the ordinance would likely be effective July 1, 2013.

For more information, visit [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org) and click on Bag Ordinance, or contact me.

**Cynthia Palacio**

Senior Analyst

**Palacio, Cynthia**

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**From:** Anita Lewis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 17, 2012 9:29 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** RE: single use bag ordinance

**Categories:** Bags

I don't know who uses the plastic bags once but I and my friends reuse them for garbage. If we didn't get them with groceries we would have to buy them in a box at the store. I may not be able to go to the meetings so let me know whom else I should send this to. Thanks.

## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Kathleen Creger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2012 9:08 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Re: Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance - Community Informational Meeting Scheduled July 31 at 7 p.m. in City council Chambers

**Categories:** Bags

Thank you for the info, Cynthia,

I will not be attending the meeting on July 31, but definitely think Mtn View should ban the single use plastic bags.

Kathleen Creger

On Jul 27, 2012, at 5:00 PM, Palacio, Cynthia wrote:

Dear Neighbors,

The City of Mountain View invites our businesses and residents to attend a **community informational meeting to learn and provide input** about a proposed City ordinance on **Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 7 p.m.** in Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View.

The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance is proposed to ban plastic single-use carryout bags and charge for paper bags at retail stores, excluding restaurants, charitable nonprofit thrift organizations, and protective bags for produce/meat/prescriptions/greeting cards.

The proposed ordinance will be brought forward for consideration to the City Council at a public hearing sometime in Fall 2012. If adopted the ordinance would likely become effective July 1, 2013. More background is provided below.

(Apologies for cross-postings. This is additional noticing in case you haven't seen it. Notice about the community informational meeting of July 31 at 7 p.m. has been printed in the Voice newspaper on July 19 and 26, shown on KMVT, and on the City's website and calendar, emailed to neighborhood groups, and mailed to businesses and other interested groups.)

### **Background:**

Mountain View is participating with other cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara county in a joint environmental impact report (EIR) to evaluate the effects of the proposed ordinance on the environment. The EIR is the first step in the process before cities may consider adopting a local



ordinance. The Draft EIR is available for review at the Mountain View Library or [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org) (link is Bag Ordinance). Comments about the environmental effects of the proposed ordinance re due to San Mateo County (the host agency for the EIR) no later than 5 p.m. on August 6, 2012.

The second step in the process is consideration of a local ordinance. As noted above Mountain View is having a community information and input meeting on July 31 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View. After this meeting, a staff report and workplan will be prepared and presented to City Council sometime in the Fall, probably October or early November 2012. At that time, Council will consider the ordinance at a public hearing and, if adopted, the ordinance would likely be effective July 1, 2013.

For more information, visit [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org) and click on Bag Ordinance, or contact me.

**Cynthia Palacio**

Senior Analyst

City of Mountain View

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## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Julie B. Lovins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 30, 2012 10:37 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Re: Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance - Community Informational Meeting Scheduled July 31 at 7 p.m. in City council Chambers

**Categories:** Bags

Cynthia--

I'm going to try to get there but meanwhile would like to mention two things that came up in extensive neighborhood listserv discussion of this topic and that I think might be worth (your) talking about. My version of the situation:

1. A lot of people don't understand why they will be charged for PAPER bags. I think the resource issue should be mentioned, as well as the fact that they too add to the cost of goods.
2. Some people are worried about how they'll handle garbage if they don't get plastic bags from the store. (Paper carryout bags are often used for dry trash.) I assume the answer to the question about (wet) garbage, if they don't compost it, is that (1) they will still be getting plastic bags that are not carryout, e.g. for produce, or with packaged goods, (2) if they really do need to buy them, there are biodegradable ones, not made from petroleum, readily available, including the BioBags at Costco. (The website reference you gave me, [www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org), is great!)

I don't know if there will really be a problem with (dry) trash.

(And we should all be a little more careful about what we throw where!)

Oh, by the way, I should forward to you a wonderful thing from a neighbor.  
Too late to vote now but check this out anyway! (Coming.)

Julie

P.S. The apparent conclusion of the listserv discussion was a mass outbreak of haiku concerning the destruction of the Earth by plastic bags.

I haven't heard anything about the first meeting you had on this but hope it was constructive!

On Sat, 28 Jul 2012, Palacio, Cynthia wrote:

- > Dear Neighbors,
- >
- > The City of Mountain View invites our businesses and residents to

- > attend a community informational meeting to learn and provide input
- > about a proposed City ordinance on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 7 p.m. in
- > Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View.

## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Spletzer, Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 31, 2012 11:31 AM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** citizen comment on Single Use Bag Ordinance

**Categories:** Bags

Caller to PW – who wishes to remain anonymous – can't make it to subject meeting tonight but she wants to submit following comment:

The Single Use Bag ordinance issue has become too intrusive into people's lives; that's why the County backed away from it. If this ordinance passes, caller will take her sales tax business elsewhere.

## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Dean Peterson <dpeterson@smcgov.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2012 10:52 AM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia; Topley, Lori  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed paper bag fee

**Categories:** Bags

FYI - Comment from a MV resident

 Save Paper. Think Before You Print.

>>> Bill [REDACTED] 8/5/2012 3:13 PM >>>  
To whom it may concern:

I am a Mountain View resident. For years I have used paper bags from grocery stores to assist in keeping my non recyclable garbage properly wrapped. This is efficient, and works well, keeping the garbage container relatively clean and odor free. A 10 cent tax on using a paper bag means I'll have to find some other way to contain my garbage. Over and above my (agreed, relatively minor) personal situation here are a few points that you should consider:

#1 Reusable bags have been found to contain large numbers of bacteria not present in paper bags.

This info from a Mercury News article that referenced report on:

[http://uanews.org/pdfs/GerbaWilliamsSinclair\\_BagContamination.pdf](http://uanews.org/pdfs/GerbaWilliamsSinclair_BagContamination.pdf)

The first flu epidemic (we have one every year) you will have consumers screaming for sanitized bags. You are just asking for chaos in the check-out lanes. Whats a dirty bag? How clean is clean. Think.....this would be a disaster. If the city charges a fee to "encourage the use" of reusable bags, and an epidemic breaks out that is traceable, even in part, to the use of reusable bags, what is the City's liability?

#2 This tax, if passed, is very visable, and constantly in the face of the consumer. Their attitude towards taxes cannot help but be adversely affected when the time comes for voting on a really critical tax for community needs in the future.

#3 According to Mountain View Voice article, proponents recommended that reusable bags be sanitized routinely. (Reusable bags are required to be machine washable.) Oh, great. How much extra water and electricity are Mountain View residents going to consume needlessly. Don't even bother to tell me that we should just throw the bag in with our other clothes. No way!

#4 Comments such as "(the tax)...doesn't appear to be a burden on business" is facile on its face. Of course, it's a burden. It's one more form to prepare, data to accumulate, deadline to meet. We need to work at reducing, not increasing, the regulatory spider web of forms and rules that business must deal with.

Bill Nilli, resident

## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Dean Peterson <dpeterson@smcgov.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia; Topley, Lori  
**Subject:** Fwd: Plastic Bags

**Categories:** Bags

and another.....



>>> "Simon Glass" [REDACTED] 8/6/2012 6:17 AM >>>

Hi,

I write regarding the proposed plastic bag ban in Mountain View.

I very much hope that a ban does not happen. Here are my thoughts on it:

1. Supermarket-style plastic bags are made from polyethylene gas, which is a byproduct of natural gas production. In some gas fields (e.g. Tauranga New Zealand) the gas is simply burnt into the atmosphere at the field since it costs money to collect it and they haven't bothered to install the required collection equipment. Reducing the use of plastic bags reduces the demand for this gas, and encourages more of it to be burnt. More oil is not drilled to create these bags - they are just a byproduct, by which this gas at least gets some use. Given that plastic bags are a byproduct, they are environmentally much better than paper bags can be. They come for free out of something we are already doing.
2. Plastic bags are very convenient. I can hold a lot more of them than paper bags, and they each hold more because they are stronger.
3. The bags should not be called 'single use' - I reuse them regularly as they are light, incredibly strong and waterproof. They compress down to the size of what they contain so can fit in my bike pannier. By contrast, when I get paper bags from Palo Alto Safeway, the only use I have so far found is for holding animal litter before it goes in the bin. Our paper bags just get thrown out. In our household we reuse plastic bags for all sorts of things (carrying stuff to work, rubbish bin in car, holding books and papers, holding camping and picnic stuff, etc.).
4. A plastic bag weighs a few grams, a paper bag weighs much more and takes up more space. You will need more truck deliveries to get them into MTV, which is extra cost for no benefit.
5. There seems to be no real adverse environment effect that I have heard of. Some say small animals die from plastic bags? Really? It's not like we have them blowing around the countryside here in the valley. Are they clogging up our waterways? I haven't noticed any sort of problem like this in the creeks in MTV. I think this is just misleading.
6. So why would anyone want to ban plastic bags? I think it is a trendy, cool thing to do, 'doing you bit' to save the planet. Anything that makes life harder for humans must make things better for the planet...? To me this is mindless, anti-human and anti-science. We should stand up to this sort of eco-bullying and focus on solving actual problems. Implementing a ban to fit in with others is a very bad reason also.
7. Plastic bags are hygienic and can be thrown out when dirty or torn. They don't need to be machine washed (using lots of water), and since they were so cheap to make they don't need to be used 200 times just to justify themselves.

Perhaps instead you could ask supermarkets (which I presume are the main users) to provide a recycling bin (or perhaps a 1 cent bag reuse credit) instead, as is done in England (Sainsburys provides a credit on their loyalty card and Tesco's has a recycle bin).

In the environment impact report, there is no mention of these options, which is a major omission I think. Nor does that report[1] seem to motivate the ban, since the report says on the one hand (Table ES-1) that less plastic bags will be manufactured (AQ-1) but more paper (or in fact canvas) bags will be produced (GHG-1). Given my point 1 above the ban is probably counterproductive and we are much better with things as they are, from an environmental impact point of view. Looking at things from a narrow county perspective ignores where the bags come from and the negligible environmental cost (versus heavier bags) of their manufacture.

Regards,  
Simon

[1] <http://www.mountainview.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=9923>

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\*Please note new cellphone number\*

Simon Glass  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 16, 2012 7:18 AM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** To City council

Name: Steven Bacsi

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Comments: Please oppose the proposal to ban plastic bags in Mountain View.

I reuse or recycle all of my plastic bags and I believe many others do too.

I roam Mountain View and never once have seen a bag rolling along, loose and on it's way to the environment this ban is supposed to protect.

I no longer shop in Sunnyvale because of their bag ban...this is a win for Mountain View!

Thank you,

Steve Bacsi, Mountain View resident and taxpayer



## Palacio, Cynthia

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**From:** Greg Unangst [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Re: Resuable Bag Ordinance - Notice of City Council Public Hearing - December 4, 2012

Cynthia,

Unfortunately, I will be out of country on the 4th and cannot make the meeting. But I want to make some of the points I made in your earlier hearing. The plastic bag problem is a world wide problem with countries such as Argentina, Bhutan, Nicaragua, and Namibia struggling to control the litter with very few resources. This past June on a National Geographic expedition on the Svalbard Islands above 80 degrees latitude on an extremely isolated gravel beach we were amazed and dismayed at the amount of plastic trash. And yes, among the plastic bottles, toys, and fishing nets, etc. were plastic bags. This stuff gets spread world wide by the winds and currents.

More locally, this stuff gets blown and washed into our storm drains and streams and ends up in the bay. It is a detriment to both wildlife and boating in the bay and some of it makes it way out to the open ocean. Bring your own bag has been part of the shopping experience in parts of Europe for over 30 years. Its not that hard of a habit to get into and people can and have adapted to it. So I highly encourage you to adopt the banning of single use plastic bags. Please do the right thing.

Greg Unangst - Mountain View Citizen

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**From:** "Palacio, Cynthia" <cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue, November 27, 2012 9:28:28 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Resuable Bag Ordinance - Notice of City Council Public Hearing - December 4, 2012

This will confirm that the Reusable Bag ordinance will indeed be heard on Dec. 4 and the staff report will be available after 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 29, 2012 at the places specified below.

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**From:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2012 5:40 PM  
**Subject:** Resuable Bag Ordinance - Notice of City Council Public Hearing - December 4, 2012

**To:** Neighborhood Associations, Environmental Organizations, Zero Waste List Serve, Reusable Bag Ordinance Public Input Attendees and Commenters, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Business Association

Please forward this notice to members of your association or group.

**Notice of City Council Public Hearing**  
**Reusable Bag Ordinance**  
Single-Use Carryout Bags

**Tuesday, December 4, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.**  
Council Chambers  
500 Castro Street, 2nd Floor



The Mountain View City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed ordinance regulating carryout bags at retail establishments. The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to reduce waste, litter, and environmental impacts related to the use of single-use, carryout bags and to promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags. The ordinance would ban plastic single-use carryout bags and charge for paper bags at retail stores (excluding restaurants, fast-food establishments, charitable nonprofit thrift organizations, and protective product bags such as produce, meat, prescriptions, greeting cards, live fish, and garment bags). If the City Council adopts the ordinance, it would take effect beginning April 22, 2013.

A copy of the City Council staff report, ordinance, and Environmental Impact Report is available after 4 p.m. Thursday, November 29, 2012 at the City Clerk's Office or online at [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org). A similar notice has been mailed to approximately 320 retail businesses who may be affected by the proposed ordinance. The attached notice will be published in the Mountain View Voice on November 30, 2012. Notices will also be posted on the City's web site and on KMVT cable television.

### **Ordinance Description**

The proposed ordinance would regulate the use of paper and plastic single-use carryout bags at all retail establishments within Mountain View, including those selling clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer. Restaurants, fast-food places and non-profit charitable reuse organizations (e.g., Goodwill and Salvation Army) would be exempt. The proposed ordinance would 1) ban plastic single-use carryout bags, and 2) allow recycled-content paper carryout bags or reusable carryout bags to be provided for a minimum charge of 10 cents per bag initially and 25 cents after January 1, 2015. Customers enrolled in the State's supplemental food stamps programs would be exempt from the paper or reusable bag charge. Protective bags for produce, meat, prescriptions, live fish, greeting cards, or garment bags (dry cleaning, clothing) may be provided at no charge. Retailers keep the 10 cents or 25 cents charged. They must itemize the purchase of any bags on the sales receipt and keep records of bag purchases and sales for 3 years, to be made available to the City upon request.

### **Public Review and Comment**

To review the ordinance in its entirety, as well as other information relevant to the ordinance, the Environmental Impact Report and public input, please visit [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org) and click on Bag Ordinance (documents at bottom of page).

A copy of the City Council staff report will be available after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 29, 2012 at the City Clerk's Office, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of City Hall (500 Castro Street), or online at [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org).

Comments regarding the proposed ordinance may be made to the City Council by attending the meeting, or by submitting written comments via the City's website or to the City Clerk's Office prior to the meeting.

Apologies for cross-postings of this message.

**Cynthia Palacio**  
Senior Analyst  
City of Mountain View  
Public Works Department  
Solid Waste & Recycling  
650-903-6033 desk

**Palacio, Cynthia**

---

**From:** Claire Kalia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 2:08 PM  
**To:** Palacio, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Support for the plastic bag ordinance

I am an active Chamber of Commerce member and Mountain View attorney and I would like to express my whole-hearted support for the plastic bag ordinance. It will be good for business by improving Mountain View's image, reducing trash and contributing to a conscious and responsible community at large.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Claire

--  
Claire Kalia, attorney-at-law  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Allison Chan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 26, 2012

Mountain View  
PO Box 7540  
500 Castro Street  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Dear Mountain View:

Dear Mayor Kasperzak and Councilmembers,

I recently learned that on December 4th, you will be considering a ban on plastic bags in Mountain View. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and I hope I can count on your support for the proposed ordinance.

With 50 percent of the Bay Area now living in jurisdictions that have banned plastic bags, this has truly become a regional movement that Mountain View should participate in. Plastic bags are one of the most common types of litter collected by volunteers on Coastal Cleanup Day each year -- they threaten wildlife, suffocate wetlands, and create an eyesore along our creeks and Bay shoreline. Despite a long, drawn out effort by the plastics industry and the state of California, less than five percent of plastic bags are recycled; the rest end up in our overflowing landfills or littering our waterways.

Like most Bay Area jurisdictions, Mountain View must eliminate trash from its stormwater system by 2022 -- banning plastic bags is an important step in meeting this ambitious requirement.

Please join San Mateo County and South San Francisco in doing the right thing for your community and the Bay -- ban plastic bags and encourage the rest of the county to follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Allison Chan

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2012 4:06 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Monica Canfield-Lenfest  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 26, 2012

Mountain View  
PO Box 7540  
500 Castro Street  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Dear Mountain View:

Dear Mayor Kasperzak and Councilmembers,

I recently learned that on December 4th, you will be considering a ban on plastic bags in Mountain View. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and I hope I can count on your support for the proposed ordinance.

With 50 percent of the Bay Area now living in jurisdictions that have banned plastic bags, this has truly become a regional movement that Mountain View should participate in. Plastic bags are one of the most common types of litter collected by volunteers on Coastal Cleanup Day each year -- they threaten wildlife, suffocate wetlands, and create an eyesore along our creeks and Bay shoreline. Despite a long, drawn out effort by the plastics industry and the state of California, less than five percent of plastic bags are recycled; the rest end up in our overflowing landfills or littering our waterways.

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Sincerely,

Monica Canfield-Lenfest

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 12:51 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Michael Murphy  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

Dear Mayor Kasperzak and Councilmembers,

I recently learned that on December 4th, you will be considering a ban on plastic bags in Mountain View. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and I hope I can count on your support for the proposed ordinance.

With 50 percent of the Bay Area now living in jurisdictions that have banned plastic bags, this has truly become a regional movement that Mountain View should participate in. Plastic bags are one of the most common types of litter collected by volunteers on Coastal Cleanup Day each year -- they threaten wildlife, suffocate wetlands, and create an eyesore along our creeks and Bay shoreline. Despite a long, drawn out effort by the plastics industry and the state of California, less than five percent of plastic bags are recycled; the rest end up in our overflowing landfills or littering our waterways.

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Please join San Mateo County and South San Francisco in doing the right thing for your community and the Bay -- ban plastic bags and encourage the rest of the county to follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy



---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 1:06 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Kathleen Sartain  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

Dear Mayor Kasperzak and Councilmembers,

I recently learned that on December 4th, you will be considering a ban on plastic bags in Mountain View. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and I hope I can count on your support for the proposed ordinance.

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Please join San Mateo County and South San Francisco in doing the right thing for your community and the Bay -- ban plastic bags and encourage the rest of the county to follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sartain  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Dixie Lopez  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

Dear Mayor Kasperzak and Councilmembers,

I recently learned that on December 4th, you will be considering a ban on plastic bags in Mountain View. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and I hope I can count on your support for the proposed ordinance.

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Like most Bay Area jurisdictions, Mountain View must eliminate trash from its stormwater system by 2022 -- banning plastic bags is an important step in meeting this ambitious requirement.

Please join San Mateo County and South San Francisco in doing the right thing for your community and the Bay -- ban plastic bags and encourage the rest of the county to follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Dixie Lopez

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Ronald Voss  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

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I recently learned that on December 4th, you will be considering a ban on plastic bags in Mountain View. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and I hope I can count on your support for the proposed ordinance.

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Please join San Mateo County and South San Francisco in doing the right thing for your community and the Bay -- ban plastic bags and encourage the rest of the county to follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Ronald Voss



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 1:41 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Robert Lopez  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

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Please join San Mateo County and South San Francisco in doing the right thing for your community and the Bay -- ban plastic bags and encourage the rest of the county to follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Robert Lopez  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Sally Clark  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

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Sincerely,

Sally Clark

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Anita Moser  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

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Sincerely,

Anita Moser

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 3:06 PM  
**To:** , City Clerk  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags in Mountain View

Kathy Haranzo  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

November 27, 2012

Tom Means

Dear Tom Means:

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I recently learned that on December 4th, you will be considering a ban on plastic bags in Mountain View. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and I hope I can count on your support for the proposed ordinance.

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Sincerely,

Kathy Haranzo

## Case Details

[Print](#)[Close](#)

Case Number: 21579

Status: Resolved

Tags:

Request Type: Concern

Customer: Gold, Lynn

Location of Request:

external customer  
Mountain View CA 94039  
[REDACTED]

Facility: N/A

Preferred Contact Method: Email

Submitted By: Gold, Lynn  
customer

Primary Owner: Palacio, Cynthia

Topic: City Council > Contact City  
Councilmembers (City Clerk)

Secondary Owner: Topley, Lori

Date/Time Created: 10/12/2012 13:11

Date/Time Closed: 10/15/2012 12:53

## Custom Fields

## Original Request

Please do NOT institute a plastic bag ban in our city! It's one thing to be concerned about the environment, but it's another to institute "nanny state" laws. I know people who prefer to shop in Mountain View over Sunnyvale and San Jose because of THEIR plastic bag bans. There are times when tote bags are inadequate or inconvenient, and paper bags break too easily.

The tote bag issue creates other problems:

- . What do you use when your tote bags are all filled up?
- . What do you use when your tote bags and the paper bags aren't big enough to hold the item or items you need to carry?
- . What do you do when it's raining and your paper bag disintegrates while you're trying to catch the bus?
- . If you shop at a lot of places, where are you supposed to keep all those tote bags?

If you want to do something progressive, why not legislate that the plastic bags used by Mountain View businesses have to be biodegradable? That would be MUCH better for the environment than a nanny-state law. Mountain View has always been a progressive city; please keep it that way.

## Customer Communications \*

From	Text	Date
Palacio, Cynthia	<p>Less</p> <p>Send an Email</p> <p>TO: [REDACTED]</p> <p>CC: Lorrie.Brewer@mountainview.gov, lori.topley@mountainview.gov</p> <p>BCC:</p> <p>Date: 10/16/2012</p> <p>Subject: RE: City of Mountain View case number 21579</p> <p>Ms. Gold,</p> <p>This is a correction to a date in my previous email to you.</p>	10/16/2012 10:15



The public hearing to review and certify the Final Environmental Impact Report will be held next Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 9 a.m. (not October 16). The location has not changed. I apologize for the error.

<https://clients.comcate.com/myfeedbackView.php?view=523345&id=128>

Cynthia Palacio  
Senior Analyst  
Solid Waste & Recycling Section  
Public Works Department

On 10/12/2012, Lynn Gold [REDACTED] wrote:  
Please do NOT institute a plastic bag ban in our city! It's one thing to be concerned about the environment, but it's another to institute "nanny state" laws. I know people who prefer to shop in Mountain View over Sunnyvale and San Jose because of THEIR plastic bag bans. There are times when tote bags are inadequate or inconvenient, and paper bags break too easily.

The tote bag issue creates other problems:  
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. What do you do when it's raining and your paper bag disintegrates while you're trying to catch the bus?  
. If you shop at a lot of places, where are you supposed to keep all those tote bags?

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Less

Palacio, Cynthia

Less



10/15/2012 12:53

Send an Email

TO: [REDACTED]

CC: Lorrie.Brewer@mountainview.gov,  
cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov, lori.topley@mountainview.gov  
BCC: cary.bloomquist@mountainview.gov

Date: 10/15/2012

Subject: RE: City of Mountain View case number 21579

Thank you for giving us your comment about the proposed Reusable Bag Ordinance. I will be sure to include it with other public comments in the staff report to the City Council. At the present time, the matter is scheduled to come before City Council at their regular meeting of December 4, 2012. The attached letter will provide you with answers to your many good questions and comments as well as links to the City's website where more information can be found. Please feel free to contact me at 650-903-6311 or at [cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov](mailto:cynthia.palacio@mountainview.gov) if you need further assistance.

<https://clients.comcate.com/myfeedbackView.php>

view=523345&id=128

Cynthia Palacio  
Senior Analyst  
Solid Waste & Recycling Section  
Public Works Department

Bag\_Ordinance\_-\_Lynn\_Gold.pdf

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Less

Brewer, Lorrie

Less

10/15/2012 08:24

Send an Email

TO: [REDACTED]

CC:

BCC:

Date: 10/15/2012

Subject: RE: City of Mountain View case number 21579

Thank you Ms. Gold for your email, which will be forwarded to Council. Additionally, I have forwarded your questions to Lori Topley, Solid Waste Program Manager for response.

If I may be of any further assistance in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at [lorrie.brewer@mountainview.gov](mailto:lorrie.brewer@mountainview.gov).

Lorrie Brewer, City Clerk

Less

auto notification

Less

10/12/2012 13:11

Auto Case Notification Created

Subject: Your request has been received by the City of Mountain View

TO: [REDACTED]

Dear Lynn Gold, Thank you for your request received on 10/12/2012 concerning City Council>Contact City Councilmembers. It has been assigned ID#21579. You will receive a response to your request within three business days. If you should have any further questions please feel free to contact the City again and refer to the identification number above.  
Sincerely, The City of Mountain View  
<http://www.mountainview.gov>  
Less

*\* Customer Communications are visible on the customer's case status page.*



October 22, 2012



The Honorable Adrienne J. Tissier  
Chair, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**RE: Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance**

Supervisor Tissier,

On behalf of the California Grocers Association, I write to inform you of our comfort implementing the ordinance regulating the distribution of single-use carryout bags as presented on the October 23 agenda. It is critical carryout bag regulations meet their intended environmental goals, respect consumers, and minimize impacts on retailers. We believe the ordinance as proposed meets these tests. We also strongly encourage all jurisdictions participating in the Final EIR to pursue this same ordinance in order to maximize the environmental gain and avoid competitive disadvantages for retailers.

The California Grocers Association is a non-profit, statewide trade association representing the food industry since 1898. CGA represents approximately 500 retail member companies operating over 6,000 food stores in California and Nevada, and approximately 300 grocery supplier companies. Retail membership includes chain and independent supermarkets, convenience stores and mass merchandisers. CGA members include a number of grocery companies operating in San Mateo County.

The policy of banning single-use plastic bags and allowing recyclable paper bags for a charge has shown to encourage reusable bag use, provide consumers no-cost and low-cost carryout options, and minimize operational and financial impacts to retailers. Over 60 California jurisdictions have passed this type of ordinance including all jurisdictions in Alameda and San Luis Obispo Counties, the Counties of Los Angeles, Marin and Santa Cruz, as well as the Cities of San Jose, Sunnyvale, Millbrae and San Francisco.

By banning single use plastic bags and placing a charge on single use paper bags consumers are encouraged to use reusable bags while still retaining a choice at checkout. Industry experience in California has shown within a year after ordinance implementation over 90% of consumers bring a reusable bag to the store or take no bag at all from the store.

We believe it is critical all jurisdictions participating in the Final EIR adopt the same carryout bag ordinance in order to avoid a patchwork of regulation. Industry experience has shown inconsistent regulation confuses consumers and creates competitive disadvantages for retailers operating near neighboring jurisdictions, as well as for retailers with multiple store locations in different jurisdictions. With grocery companies averaging a 1% profit margin any unnecessary impact, such as a regulatory disadvantage, can have dramatic negative impacts.

Thank you for your consideration and please consider CGA a partner to encourage reusable bag use.

Sincerely,



TIMOTHY M. JAMES  
Manager, Local Government Relations

cc: Members, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
Mr. Dean D. Peterson PE, REHS, Director Environmental Health  
Participating Municipalities in the Final Environmental Impact Report